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--17. (New) A minimal quantity lubrication system for cutting or grinding which comprises supplying together with a compressed fluid an oil composition in a quantity of 0.001 ml/minute to 1 ml/minute to the cutting or grinding spot of a work, wherein the oil composition comprises at least 20 percent by mass of an ester based on the total amount of the composition, and the composition has a kinematic viscosity of 1 to 100 mm<sup>2</sup>/s at 40 °C.

18. (New) A cutting or grinding oil composition according to claim 1, wherein said ester is contained in an amount of at least 30 percent by mass based on the total amount of the composition.

*BX*  
19. (New) A cutting or grinding oil composition according to claim 1, wherein said ester is contained in an amount of at least 50 percent by mass based on the total amount of the composition.

20. (New) A method for cutting or grinding a work which comprises:

(a) cutting or grinding a work such that the work has a cutting or grinding spot; and  
(b) supplying to the cutting or grinding spot of the work an oil composition from a minimal quantity lubrication system wherein the minimal quantity lubrication system comprises supplying together with a compressed fluid the oil composition in a quantity of 0.001 ml/minute to 1 ml/minute; wherein the oil composition comprises at least 20 percent by mass of an ester based on a total amount of the composition, and wherein the composition has a kinematic viscosity of 1 to 100 mm<sup>2</sup>/s at 40 °C.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-20 are presently pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the ester is present in an amount of at least 20 percent by mass based on the total amount of the composition, and that the composition has a kinematic viscosity of 1 to 100 mm<sup>2</sup>/s at 40 °C. These amendments are supported in the